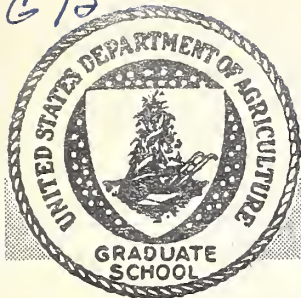


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# Newsletter

GRADUATE SCHOOL ★ USDA

April 7, 1954

To the Faculty, Committee Members and  
others associated with the Graduate School:

## What do you think

we should be adding in the form of new courses, seminars, lecture series, or other activities to meet tomorrow's needs of Federal employees and the agencies where they work.

I would like to enlist your help. We need fresh vigorous ideas. I believe each of you can make a contribution and it need not be limited to the area of your immediate responsibility in GS.

We have a remarkable institution. During the past few weeks my faith in the future of GS has been repeatedly strengthened as I have become more closely acquainted with the program and talked with many of you who are working with us.

I have seen the constructive way those of you in Department committees are planning and developing programs of instruction.

I have been much impressed by the caliber of our faculty. We are unusually fortunate here in Washington to have men and women of competency and renown who are willing to teach after-hours courses in order to maintain their academic contacts.

I have become more aware of what it means to have the support of the General Administration Board. Here we have the backing of an able group of men in high ranking posts in the Department of Agriculture.

I am seeing many examples of teamwork in committees, in the faculty, the Board, and our small full-time staff. These united efforts have characterized the School during the 33 years of its existence. They have enabled GS to be of great usefulness through years of prosperity and depression, through peace and war.

And it is through teamwork that we must approach present problems. The main one today is that of finances. Enrollment has dropped considerably over the past two years. That means a drastic reduction in funds because our income depends upon the fees.

The drop in enrollment reflects the fear of change in Government agencies. I believe this is temporary. As employment is stabilized, Federal workers can be assured that professional improvement will be recognized and rewarded.

In the meanwhile we must move forward with plans for work that will be of increasing usefulness in coming years. I earnestly solicit your suggestions.

#### **WIDER USE BY GOVERNMENT**

of employee training methods which have proved their value in private industry is a "must" in a true Federal career service, according to U. S. Civil Service Commissioner Frederick J. Lawton.

Perhaps you heard or read the talk on Government training programs Mr. Lawton made recently at Langley Aeronautical Laboratory. He underlined the need for a unified general policy on training and a broader coordinated authority that would enable Government agencies to establish and participate in programs to meet a wide variety of needs.

Most failures in management, he said, are made by people who, "either don't know, can't do, or don't care. Training is the only known method that will fill the gaps in knowledge, skill, and attitudes that cause things to go wrong at various levels of organization.

"As more people come into Government executive positions from progressive private industry, where the value of training has been well established, I think we will see some lessening of the mistaken belief that training is simply a gift to employees at the expense of the taxpayer."

#### **IT IS STILL IN THE DISCUSSION STAGE**

but I am sure you will be interested to know there is a possibility that graduate students may be able to obtain grants from the National Science Foundation for studies in Government laboratories.

R. Y. Winters, chairman of the Cooperative Intern Program who has been looking into the matter, tells me that the Act establishing the Foundation authorizes fellowships at accredited institutions of higher learning. But this does not mean that the student must carry out the work on the campus of the school where he seeks a degree. The school may sponsor a plan of study that will permit the work to be done in other laboratories if these offer better opportunities for research.

Dr Winters points out that where the applicant for the fellowship is a member of the staff of a land-grant college or experiment station, it would be possible for the institution to arrange to have the work carried out in the appropriate Government laboratory.

## **NEW COURSES**

approved in recent meetings of Departmental Committees include:

Four in engineering. One of these -- Practical Electronics -- is quite different from the course that has been given under this title. The new one, to be taught by Robert Hauptman, Bureau of Ships, will be more elementary and of the type taught in a trade school. The name of the course formerly taught under this title has been changed to Applied Electronic Theory. H. Walter Price will continue as instructor.

J. J.A. Jessel and A. D. Thomas will serve as instructors in Distribution Line Design and Transmission Line Design, telephone courses that will deal primarily with fundamentals. Thomas J. McDonough, who teaches Fundamentals of Telephony I and II will offer Rural Telephone System Design in the spring of 1955.

Two new courses in history and international relations. H. M. Spitzer will teach the one in European History. Nelson Johnson will give a new course, History of East and South Asia and Relations with the West.

Because advanced courses in Cost Accounting and Auditing have been attracting unusually large enrollments, the Committee on Accounting has recommended that these courses be given annually instead of in alternate years as they are now scheduled.

## **A FINE ILLUSTRATION**

of the thoroughness with which GS committee members attack a problem can be seen in the report made last month on the need for additional courses in geology and geography. It covers a survey made by Louis C. Peltier and Morris Terman for the Physical Sciences Committee.

The report shows that Mr. Peltier and Mr. Terman talked with leaders in this field at eight agencies. They found an interest in 24 courses and wide agreement on six of them. Moreover they lined up seven prospective instructors.

The courses most generally recommended were: Regional Geography of the United States, Field Geography, Principles of Physical Geography, Plant Geography, and Military Geography.

## **SECRETARY BENSON**

recently named two new members to the GS General Administration Board. They are James A. McConnell, Administrator of the Commodity Stabilization Service, and Ralph S. Roberts, Administrative Assistant Secretary. Mr. McConnell succeeds C. R. Arnold, whose tenure ended when the Farm Credit Administration was made an independent agency. Mr. Roberts fills the vacancy left by my retirement. Mr. Benson has designated Clarence M. Ferguson of the Extension Service to serve as chairman.

## AMONG OURSELVES

I felt a sense of real loss last month when I accepted the resignation of W. Edwards Deming, chairman of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. During the 20 years he has been associated with GS he has built a Department of world renown. Because he expects to be in New York a great deal of the time in the future, he said he would not be able to serve as chairman any longer.

We are fortunate in finding an excellent man to succeed Dr. Deming. Our new chairman is B. Ralph Stauber, who has been associated with GS since 1931.

When Carl C. Taylor stopped by the office to leave the class roll for his course, "Social Psychology," we had a chance to talk with him about the work he will be doing in India this coming year. Dr. Taylor is joining the Foreign Operations Administration to serve as consultant in community development. His objective will be to find ways of getting the people in rural communities involved in the distribution of new materials -- fertilizer, improved varieties, farm implements -- and information on their use. His headquarters will be at New Delhi.

Sincerely,

  
T. Roy Reid  
Director

